Exploitation of ground water by farm houses

273. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the massive exploitation of ground water by farm houses in South and South West Delhi is leading to a sharp fall in the water table in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard to prevent the over-exploitation of ground water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Exploitation of ground water by farm houses in South and South West districts of NCT of Delhi is one of the reasons for sharp decline in water table. A study conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in about 2 sq. km area of Jaunapur in South district of Delhi having 12 farm houses besides other residents, indicate that fall in ground water levels is due to cumulative effect of pumpage of ground water by farm houses, other farmers and local residents.

(c) To prevent over-exploitation of ground water in Delhi, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified South and South West districts of NCT of Delhi prohibiting further digging of wells without prior approval of the Authority.

Agreement with China for hydrological data

†274. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 814 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to enter into an agreement with China for exchange of hydrological data of the rivers originating from China on the lines of Brahmaputra river agreement so that possibilities of extraordinarily devastating floods in Sutlej river could be minimized in future;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.